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SOVIET CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY FAILS TO MEET
BUILDING DEMANDS IN MANY REPUBLICS

[This report presents information, from May 1952 - April 1953 Soviet newspapers, on accomplishments and shortcomings of the Soviet construction materials industry. Data is arranged by republic.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷

UGSR

Many enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR fulfilled their 1952 production quotas early, and, in November 1952, were working on their 1953 quotas. A number of plants and combines mastered the mass production of new types of building materials.

For the first time, enterprises of the ministry mastered the mass production of colored facing glass, tinted asbestos-cement roofing slabs, gypsum-fibered wall board, and other items. (1)

The ministry fulfilled its 1952 plan for gross output 99 percent. (2) In 1952, the gross output of building materials in the USSR as a whole increased 19.2 percent over 1951. Cement production was increased 15 percent, slate 26 percent, soft roofing material 1⁴ percent, and brick 14 percent. (3) However, the ministry failed to fulfill its plan for the production of various types of cement. (4)

The ministry also admitted that its program for producing unslaked lime was being carried out very slowly, and that the plan for erecting lime crushing plants at existing enterprises was being put into effect unsatisfactorily. In 1952, it was hoped to put into operation five crushing plants with an over-all capacity of 55,000 tons. However, only two such plants, with an over-all capacity of 15,000 tons, were completed.

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As of 27 February 1953, the ministry had taken steps to put into operation during the first half of 1953 crushing plants at the Gzhel', Gruzino, and Volosovo lime plants. In the fourth quarter 1953, crushing plants with a capacity of 93,000 tons are to be completed at the Shchurovo (Moskovskaya Oblast), Belgorod (Kurskaya Oblast), Veliko-Anadol' (Stalinskaya Oblast), Stalingrad, and Minsk lime plants. Once these crushing plants are put into operation at the above enterprises, the ministry's output of unslaked lime will reach 98,000 tons, as compared to the 44,500 tons produced by the ministry in 1952. (5)

Azerbaijani SSR

For a long time, Azerbaijani SSR construction building organizations have been using pumice, imported from the Armenian SSR, as the basic material for producing light concrete.

Researchers at the republic's Scientific-Research Institute of Construction Materials have developed a local material which can replace pumice in the production of light concrete. It was found that there is a sufficient quantity of raw material in Azerbaijani SSR, particularly in Apsheron, suitable for producing artificial pumice, or so-called "keramzit." Tests made by the institute's laboratory showed the new product to be of sufficient mechanical stability. Once the production of "keramzit" is mastered, it will be possible for Azerbaijani building organizations to convert to the use of light materials found in the republic. (9)

One of the largest asphalt-concrete plants in the republic started operations in the latter part of 1952 in Agdam. The plant, which will have an annual capacity of about 60,000 tons of asphalt, will be able to meet asphalt demands of Agdam and of surrounding communities. It quickly mastered the production of asphalt and by the beginning of 1953 had produced more than 400 tons of the product. In 1953, about 50,000 square meters of streets in Agdam are to be covered with asphalt. (10)

Belorussian SSR

Belorussian SSR brick output for the first 8 months of 1952 reached 366 million bricks. Total 1952 output was expected to surpass the prewar level by 2.2 times. (11)

As of 3 August, 30 brick plants with crownless furnaces had been built in the republic during 1952. These furnaces have a great advantage over the ground-type furnaces built previously. They use one third to one half as much fuel. Furthermore, sawdust and peat can be used for fuel as well as wood. While the capacity of the ground-type furnace is between 150,000 and 200,000 bricks per season, the rotary crownless furnace, operating without interruption, yields up to one million bricks a year. Furnace construction costs are offset during the first year of operations.

In addition to the plants under construction in the middle of 1952, about 70 more brick plants were expected to be built in the republic during the latter part of 1952. The combined capacity of brick plants with crownless furnaces under construction in 1952 was expected to be about 100 million bricks per year, or 4-4.5 times greater than the combined capacity of plants with ground-type furnaces in operation during 1951. (12)

In 1952, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Belorussian SSR started an extensive program of expanding its construction materials industry. By 1955, the ministry expects to spend several hundred million rubles on the construction of new plants, among them the Minsk Reinforced Concrete Products Plant, which is expected to have an annual capacity of 60,000 cubic meters of

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sectional structures and products. The first part of this plant is expected to be put in operation in early 1954 and will supply builders of brick buildings with a variety of sectional reinforced concrete structures and products. The second part of the plant, in which large-paneled reinforced concrete houses will be built for the republic, is expected to be put in operation by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

A ceramic plant was under construction on the site of the present Brick Plant No 10 in April 1953. The annual output of this new enterprise is expected to be 250,000 square meters of colored front facing ceramic tile, 200,000 square meters of colored floor ceramic earthenware tile, terra cotta, and majolica, and 15,000 tons of ceramic sewer pipes.

In 1952, the ministry organized and started production of "MK" ceramic facing tile at its Goryn' Acid-Resistant Ceramic Plant. As of April 1953, it was supplying this product to Minsk builders, but the latter were not yet prepared to use this product extensively.

Despite the great demand for sewer pipe in Belorussian cities and settlements, the production of ceramic sewer pipe was still not organized by April 1953. Two plants, one in Zhlobin and the other in an auxiliary shop of the ceramic plant at Minsk, are to be built to manufacture this pipe. The shop at the Minsk Ceramic Plant is to be put in operation in 1955. A shop which will manufacture colored earthenware tile is also to be built at this plant. After 1954, this plant will also be producing terra cotta and majolica products. As a result, the plant will be able to supply ceramic products not only to Minsk but to other chief centers of the republic as well.

A gypsum-fibered plasterboard plant was also being built in Minsk, on the site of Brick Plant No 10, in April 1953. Scutch, a waste material obtained from the production of flax, is to be used as fiber material. This plant, which will be equipped with highly productive equipment, is to be put in operation in early 1954.

In addition, as of 4 April, a mineral cotton producing plant was to be put into operation soon in Minsk.

Another type of insulating material, foam silicate, will be produced by the Orsha Silicate Plant, where construction had been started by April 1953 on a foam silicate products manufacturing shop. This shop is to start operations in 1954 and have an annual capacity of 15,000 cubic meters of products.

Wallboard made from flax scutch is the third type of insulating material which will be manufactured in the republic. Several thousand tons of scutch are burned in the republic annually, and the Academy of Sciences Belorussian SSR has proposed that this waste be used to fabricate insulating wallboard. The new plant is to be built in Orsha on the site of the Orsha Flax Combine.

Since no granite deposits have yet been found in the republic, it has been forced to obtain its supply of granite products from other USSR republics. For this reason, in 1952 the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Belorussian SSR started to build its own granite processing plant in Novogrud-Golyskaya, Zhitomirskaya Oblast, Ukrainian SSR. The productive capacity of the plant, which is to be put in operation in 1955, is expected to be 12,000 square meters of polished and squared granite slabs, or more than 100,000 cubic meters of quarry stone per year.

As for the silicate brick industry, as of April 1953 there was one large silicate brick plant in operation in Klimovich. Another plant had been built in Orsha and was to start producing silicate brick soon.

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Although the ministry has organized and started production of hollow ceramic wall blocks and hollow and perforated brick at several of its plants, the output of these items was far behind state plans by April 1953. In 1952, the plan for these materials was fulfilled only 15 percent, mainly because of the lack of demand by builders for these materials. A considerable quantity has accumulated at the Vitebsk Construction Materials Combine. (13)

Estonian SSR

The Estonian SSR construction materials industry is being expanded rapidly. Many new plants are being built. In August 1952, a brick plant equipped with tunnel kilns and dryers and with an annual capacity of 17 million red bricks and building ceramics was under construction in Tallin. All of the plant's productive processes are to be fully mechanized.

A large silicate brick plant with an expected annual capacity of 60 million bricks was near completion in Myanniku in August 1952. (14) Construction had also been started on the Bolderayskiy Silicate Brick Plant, which is to be the largest brick plant in the republic. This plant will also be completely mechanized. (15) Seven brick and two silicate brick plants were undergoing expansion and reconstruction in August 1952. The Sangaste, Vyru, and Pyarno brick plants, which manufacture red brick, were to be converted to year-round operations. New tile manufacturing shops were built at these plants in 1952.

The Rakke and Tamsalu lime plants have been reconstructed and their capacity increased to 92,000 tons of lime per year. A large lime plant is to be built in Payda. (14)

As of 4 February 1953, enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Estonian SSR were not meeting 1953 increased building demands. Production of only nine new types of materials was contemplated. These included ceramic blocks, which have been produced by the Vyrukivi plant since 1951.

In 1952, total output of these blocks was 300,000. In 1953, an increase in this amount was contemplated. However, according to February 1953 estimates, only 200,000 blocks will be produced in 1953. This amount will not meet building demands in 1953 since, even according to preliminary estimates, more than 700,000 blocks are needed to meet 1953 requirements.

The lag in the republic's construction materials industry has been complicating the operations of planning organizations. Various complications are caused by the lack of building materials specified in the building plans. As of February 1953, no provision had been made for the manufacture of sectional reinforced concrete products and, as a result, it was impossible to specify these items in the building plans.

The wall insulating material situation was very serious, but no adjustments had been made for the manufacture of such materials.

As of February 1953, the distribution of building materials in the republic had not been made sufficiently clear and, in specifying certain materials, building planners had to be guided by their own reasoning or information which they might receive.

Building architects also encountered difficulties in designing central heating plants. All buildings on the republic level are supplied with "Armatura" type boilers which burn shale, whereas those on the all-Union level are supplied with other types of boilers with the result that, under these circumstances, the building architect can ascertain only with great difficulty the type of boiler which the supplier can supply. (16)

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Georgian SSR

Although in 1951 brick plants subordinate to the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Georgian SSR produced 58.7 million bricks, as compared with the 35.6 million produced in 1948, the need for this building material continues to rise. (17)

In 1952, more than 250 million rubles were to be granted to republic kolkhozes for the construction of brick and lime plants, garages, blacksmith shops, and buildings for livestock. By the end of 1952, about 50 mechanized plants were to be put into operation. Their annual capacity was expected to be 6.5 million bricks and 14,000 tons of lime.

A brick and tile plant with an annual capacity of 800,000 bricks was put in operation in 1952 at the Kolkhoz imeni Kirov in Liya village, Tsalandzhikhskiy Rayon. (18)

The white, gray, and red marble found in the Georgian SSR is used widely in construction projects throughout the USSR. In 1952, the republic's marble quarries expected to extract 5,000 cubic meters of marble blocks, or 1.5 times more than in 1951.

By June 1952, the Tbilisi Marble-Processing Plant had doubled its output of facing and electrically processed marble slabs.

A large part of the marble slabs used in constructing Moscow skyscrapers, including Moscow State University, has been supplied by the "Gruzmarmor" (Georgian Marble) Combine. This combine has also supplied marble to the construction projects of Leningrad, Kiev, Baku, and other cities. (19)

Georgian quartz sands, which are used to manufacture glass, are very rich and are found in large quantities in many sections of the republic. However, despite the large supplies of this raw material, its quality, in terms of chemical composition, is not high. It contains a small amount of silica but a large amount of impurities.

Alkali minerals -- the caustic alkalis used to manufacture glass -- are generally deficient in the republic. The supply of Glauber salts found in the republic is insufficient to meet the needs of the glass industry. Therefore, Georgian glass plants, including the Avchala Glass Plant, must import this raw material from distant places.

To make up for the deficiency of alkalis used in the production of bottles and preserving containers, natural alkali containing silicate raw materials must be used in sufficient amounts to replace the soda and sulfate needed to manufacture glass. (20)

Karelo-Finnish SSR

According to Vekul'kin, Minister of the Construction Materials Industry Karelo-Finnish SSR, in 1952 the gross output of the ministry's enterprises increased 12.1 percent over 1951. In the first quarter 1952, the increase was 13.2 percent over the same period of 1951. However, the republic's construction materials industry had been operating poorly and was not fulfilling its quotas. (21)

The ministry fulfilled its 1952 plan for building materials only 34.5 percent. Of 12 enterprises, only 14 fulfilled their quotas. (22) During the first half of 1952, enterprises subordinate to the ministry failed to supply 2.4 million bricks, 6,200 cubic meters of rubblestone, and many other building

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items. (23) In addition, the enterprises made very little effort to improve the quality of their products and eliminate waste. In 1952, more than 3 million bricks were lost because of waste and poor work.

The poor operations of a number of enterprises are due to the low level of direction, poor organization of labor, and weak labor discipline. (21) The Kyamskiye Lime Development (Zalezhi) is one of the best enterprises in the republic, but even here efforts toward improving production are directed only from time to time, about once in several months. The supervision seems to be quite content with the shortcomings. The situation is even worse at other plants, quarries, and developments.

Labor discipline has deteriorated greatly. Instances of loafing and arriving late at work have increased at the Kondopoga, Solomennoye, and Sulazh-Gora brick plants. (22) These plants, together with the Letnerechenskiy Brick Plant, Letnerechenskiy Standard Housing Plant, "Kamenny Bor" (Stone Drilling) Development, and other enterprises, failed to fulfill their 1952 quotas.

In 1953, the republic's construction materials industry faces even greater tasks. A 41-percent increase in production over 1951 is necessary if building demands are to be met. Of this percentage, brick must be increased 43 percent and lime 33 percent. (21)

Kirgiz SSR

Because of a shortage of brick, many building organizations in Frunze and Frunzenskaya Oblast have been unable to obtain this product. In many oblasts of the Kirgiz SSR, there was no brick available as of February 1953.

The majority of the republic's brick plants operate on a seasonal basis. The raw material is molded and dried only during the summer months. The 1952 plan provided that these seasonal plants establish a surplus of the raw material which could have been used until the start of next season's operations. However, a majority of the plants failed to do this and, when 1953 arrived, they had no raw material.

The Administration of Construction Materials Industry Kirgiz SSR placed high hopes in the Oshskiy plant, the reconstruction of which was started in 1951. But this plant, which was supposed to start operations in the fourth quarter 1952, was not yet operating in early 1953 because it had not been reconstructed completely.

As of February 1953, only two enterprises had been in operation during the winter, the Kirgiz Construction Materials Combine and the Stalin Brick Plant. While the combine had been meeting its quotas, it was not utilizing its available facilities nor increasing its output. The situation of the Stalin Brick Plant was much worse. This plant lagged during all of 1952 and up to February 1953. In 1952, tunnel dryers were installed at this plant. In 1953, the plant installed a powerful press and a semiautomatic cutting machine. But production volume per unit of equipment has been very low. The plant constantly encounters organizational and technological difficulties. One of the main reasons for its lagging has been poor power engineering. In February 1953, it failed to supply 10,000-15,000 bricks daily because of the lack of power.

Despite this, the Administration of Construction Materials Industry Kirgiz SSR was not taking any concrete measures to adjust the critical situations at its subordinate enterprises. (24)

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Latvian SSR

Of the 11 brick plants subordinate to the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Latvian SSR, only three work the year round. The remaining brick plants are idle 4-5 months each year because of inclement weather. (25)

In 1952, a new brick plant was built and put in operation in Bolderay, a suburb of Riga. The plant, which is equipped with modern machinery, is one of the largest enterprises of the republic's construction materials industry and will have a greater annual capacity than that of the republic's entire pre-war brick industry. (26)

Lithuanian SSR

During 1951 - 1952 the Lithuanian SSR construction materials industry more than doubled its output of building materials. During these years, a number of new plants were built. Wide-scale construction was started on the Vil'nyus Silicate Brick Plant, Dauguli Slate Plant, and Karpinsk Lime Plant. (27)

A large number of interkolkhoz brick plants have also been built in the republic. Thirty-five such plants were in operation in August 1952 in Pasval'skiy, Kalvariyskiy, Ionishskiy, Pandel'skiy, Rokishskiy, Vevissiy, and other rayons. The capacity of each of these plants is 1.5 million bricks per year. By the end of 1952, interkolkhoz brick plants were expected to total 65. (28)

The actual beginning of brick production in the kolkhozes dates back to 1951. In that year, 143 brick plants, which produced about 7 million bricks during the season, were constructed. However, all these plants were equipped with field-type furnaces in which only wood can be burned. Since then, some of these furnaces have been converted to burning peat and other cheap fuels.

In mid-1952, there were 161 brick plants with field-type kilns, 25 with annular kilns, and 135 with lime kilns operating in the republic. (29)

By the end of 1953, the "Dvarchyonas" Brick Plant was expected to increase its output 53 percent over 1952 production, the "Bitukas" Cement Plant 48 percent, and the Anikshchyay plant 31 percent.

A great deal of attention has been given to mechanizing the work methods of the various enterprises. By the end of 1953, brick cutting is to be completely mechanized, pit mining 82 percent mechanized, and transportation of products 80 percent mechanized. In early 1952, more than half of the republic's brick plants were working the year round. (27) In mid-1952, only 19 of the 40 kolkhoz brick plants in Vil'nyusskaya Oblast were producing brick; as a result, only 238,000 [sic] instead of 12 million bricks had been produced by these kolkhoz plants in 1951. (29)

The production of new products, especially ceramics, has been mastered, and in 1953 ceramic output is to be increased 29 percent over 1952. Also, in 1953 the output of perforated brick is to be twice that of 1952.

In 1952, the first lot of slotted blocks was produced. Experience with these blocks at one of the construction projects in Kaunas proved their high quality and, by the end of 1953, output of slotted blocks is to be increased to 2 million, 30 times the previous output.

Various types of ready-made materials are being used more and more. In 1952, production of KS-19 covering material was mastered. The use of similar building materials will save both cement and metal. Work was in progress in January 1953 to expand the output of finishing and facing materials.

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The republic's construction materials industry has also been adding new equipment to its plants. The Palemonas and Dauguli brick plants recently installed semiautomatic control presses. In many enterprises, tunnel and chamber dryers which will operate the year round were being erected in January 1953. (27)

However, because of the inefficient operations of many construction materials enterprises, as of April 1953 new building projects were critically in need of brick, lime, roll roofing material, and veneer, the lack of all of which had caused an interruption in building. Consumers were complaining at the poor quality of materials. One of the largest brick plants in the republic, the "Dvarchyonas" plant, was producing an inferior quality brick. (30)

At the Dauguli Brick Plant, 200,000 rejected bricks were found at the plant in August 1952. Defective equipment was given as one reason for the rejects, although personnel training was very poor, there was a lack of work organization, and an inequality in the wage structure existed. Quite frequently, workers did not know how much they were expected to do, as the quotas were issued to them not when the job was started but when it was completed. (31)

Moldavian SSR

Construction materials enterprises of the Moldavian SSR have been criticized for their failure to fulfill their quotas and for their failure to attain the required work standards. The Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry of the Council of Ministers Moldavian SSR, the Tiraspol' Brick and Tile Plant, and the Kishinev Brick Plant No 2 have been singled out for criticism. (32)

In 1952, the main administration was producing more than 16 different types of building materials, or twice the number produced in 1945. Enterprises subordinate to the main administration were in a position to produce in 1952 more than 100,000 tons of lime, about 30 million bricks, more than 6 million tiles, 230,000 Dutch tiles, more than 250,000 cubic meters of quarystone, and about 100,000 cubic meters of block rubble and shell rock. (33)

However, in a general review of the achievements and shortcomings of the republic's construction materials industry, the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia on 3 - 4 June 1952 reported that the republic Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry was not supplying building projects in the republic with high-grade building materials, was utilizing its productive capacity poorly, was doing very little to introduce new techniques and advanced technology, and constantly failed to fulfill the plans for the construction of new enterprises. (34)

In the first quarter 1952, the main administration was instructed to cut production costs 6.8 percent. Despite this, in January and February 1952 production costs were cut only 4.6 percent. Production costs were much higher than expected, chiefly because of the failure to meet quotas for main types of products. The cost of producing gypsum was 20.5 percent higher than expected, brick 23.4 percent more, and roofing tile 25.8 percent more. (35)

In 1952, the Tiraspol' Brick and Tile Plant failed to supply the republic's construction projects with about one million bricks. Brick production costs at this plant increased 5 rubles per thousand and tile production costs increased 56 rubles above planned costs. In addition, the plant has been producing low-quality products. Half of the tile produced by the plant in December 1952 was defective in some way, simply because the plant had not yet developed a method of drying tile. The plant also operated inefficiently, especially during the winter months, when raw material is obtained only with difficulty. Despite these shortcomings, the main administration has not been too concerned with the plant's operations. (36)

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The republic is greatly in need of quarrrystone, the lack of which has delayed work on many construction projects. The Mateysk Working, which supplies the whole republic with quarrrystone, was not fulfilling even its minimum quotas as of May 1952. It fulfilled its 1951 quota only 89.4 percent. In the first quarter 1952, this figure dropped to 80.5 percent. The main reasons for the lag were failure to organize the work properly and the lack of necessary equipment. The quarry's one motor locomotive had broken down and not been repaired. Furthermore, the sidings leading to the drift were poorly located.

Quarry stripping has also been proceeding slowly. In 1951, only 16,200 cubic meters of earth were removed -- 23.5 percent of the amount planned. Yet, in 1952, the removal of earth was not being expanded any more rapidly.

The quarry's one excavator was not working more than 3 hours per shift and was idle the rest of the time because of needed repairs. During May 1952, the excavator worked a total of ten shifts but did not work any complete shifts. The quarry needed at least two excavators which would work continuously. Despite this, as of May 1952 the main administration had failed to supply it with another excavator. The quarry was also having difficulty with trucks. Only seven of the 15 trucks available in May 1952 were in usable condition. (37)

The Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry is embarking on a large-scale construction program for 1953 - 1955. In this period, the Kishinev Brick Plant No 3 is to be constructed, while the Kishinev Brick Plant No 2, the tile plant in Novo-Andriyoshevka, and the shell-rock workings in Krikovo and Bychko are to be reconstructed. Construction is also to be started during this period on a brick plant in Uylkaneshtakh, a dry-pressing brick plant in Bel-tsy, a tile plant in Ungeny, a dry-plaster and gypsum products plant in Kishinev, and a sewer pipe plant in Otovask, Vadutuy-Vodskiy Rayon. (38)

RSFSR

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR fulfilled its 1952 plan only 98 percent. It failed to fulfill its plans for the production of brick, lime, and tile.

However, increases over 1951 were achieved in the output of individual types of materials. Brick production was increased 118 percent, brick substitutes 125 percent, lime 108 percent, gypsum 108 percent, facing tile 130 percent, colored tile 132 percent, plaster products 177 percent, chalk 143 percent, reinforced concrete building products 126 percent, ordinary tile 108 percent, and wall covering material 113 percent. (39)

In the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the ministry is contemplating the production of more than 2.6 billion bricks, 700,000 tons of lime, and 200,000 tons of gypsum.

Silicate brick production has been organized to a large degree in the USSR. In the plants of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR alone, silicate brick output in 1952 was four times more than in 1940. In the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the capacity of existing silicate brick plants is to be increased by 1.8 times. (40)

Moskovskaya Oblast

The Kuchino Experimental Brick Plant of the Scientific-Research Institute of Construction Ceramics has successfully mastered the production of more than 100 types of ceramic products for the multistoried building projects of Moscow. As of November 1952, the Cherepushki Brick Plant, which is subordinate to the

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Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry, had started mass production of hollow ceramic blocks for wall building. (1)

In 1952, the following plants in Moskovskaya Oblast fulfilled their yearly quotas for building materials: the Koronev and Lyubertsy silicate brick plants, the Nikol'skiy, Butovo, Zagorsk, Klin, and Serpukhov brick plants, the Podol'sk Cement Plant, and the "Gigant" Cement Plant.

However, through neglect of some plant supervisors, Moskovskaya Oblast builders were unable to receive a considerable amount of the brick, slate, cement, ceramic tile, and other building materials needed. The Voskresensk and Shchurovo cement plants, the Kuchino Ceramic Block Plant, the Ozharel'ye and Lianozovo brick plants, and the "Krasnyy Stroitel'" Asbestos-Cement Combine all failed to fulfill their 1952 quotas for building materials.

One of the main reasons for the poor performance of many plants was the poor utilization of available equipment. While brick output per cubic meter of tunnel kiln, as of April 1953, was 2,000-2,300 bricks per month at the Nikol'skiy, Butovo, and Zagorsk brick plants, in a majority of oblast brick plants the output per cubic meter of tunnel kiln did not exceed 1,300 bricks per month.

Many Moskovskaya Oblast construction materials plants have operated sporadically, frequently producing twice as much in the last 10 days of the month as they did in the first 20 days. In the endeavor to meet quotas, the supervision of some plants paid little attention to quality. (6)

Almost 25 percent of the brick output of the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry is produced by seasonal brick plants. About 50 percent of the capital investments appropriated for the repair and reconstruction of brick plants subordinate to the city administration, as of March 1953, had been set aside for seasonal plants. At the Verkhnekotel'skiy and Golitsyno plants, excavators were being repaired at full speed. Dryers had also been put into operation at these plants, but their operation had not yet been mastered and they were working poorly. At the Beskudnikovo Brick Plant No 1, a device had been installed which would remove the surface and extract clay in one operation.

Metal reducers have replaced those made from wood in the molding shops of a majority of seasonal brick plants. The molding shop at the Shabolovskiy plant has been completely rebuilt and new equipment installed. Electrically driven cars, not hand carts, will deliver the raw material to the dryers and kilns.

In 1952, four plants subordinate to the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry failed to supply oblast builders with about 16.5 million bricks. The equipment in the quarries and pressing shops was idle most of the time. Brick output from rotary kilns was very poor at the Shabolovskiy and Beskudnikovo No 1 brick plants.

At a conference of seasonal brick plant workers held early in 1953, it was disclosed that much of the machinery in seasonal plants lacked spare parts. In fact, the plants did not even have storage facilities for spare parts and tools. It was also disclosed that many of the parts could be made by the plant repair shops, but that the Moscow City Administration failed to supply the plants with the necessary metal.

In the 1953 season, the clay quarries of the oblast are faced not only with meeting molding shop demands for clay, but also with the necessity of providing a sufficient amount of clay for the next season. However, as of

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March 1953 the quarries lacked both equipment and hauling facilities. The Shabolovskiy plant needed an excavator and a bulldozer in its quarry. The Golitsyno and Verkhnekotel'skiy plants also needed additional equipment for their quarries. Despite this, the administration had done practically nothing about the situation.

Although the seasonal brick plants in and around Moscow have a number of drying sheds, under the present program this number is insufficient. The problem could be solved by putting every shed and nearby area into order by removing the obstructing earth and raw material, arranging reliable drainage systems, leveling off the foundation, and making extensive repairs to the surface and roads. Nevertheless, as of March 1953 nothing had been done to repair the drying sheds at the plants, mainly because the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry was not keeping in constant touch with its subordinate plants nor exercising daily supervision over their preparations. The administration had done nothing to make use of the glass roof and shutter drying shed built as an experiment by the Kudinov plant with the idea of accelerating the drying of raw material.

As of early 1953, the beneficial experiences of innovators had not been put into practice at the administration's seasonal plants. In 1952, clay brick was not pre-steamed at these plants. By March 1953, steam delivering equipment had not been put into operation at the Shabolovskiy, Beskudnikov, and Verkhnekotel'skiy plants. In fact, the raw material for mixture had not even been delivered to these plants. Preparations for year-round operations at seasonal plants were being carried out very slowly.

The training of personnel according to the latest work methods had not even started at the seasonal brick plants. Furthermore, very little progress had been made in providing housing for the additional workers of the seasonal enterprises. (7)

In the Fifth Five-Year Plan, 38 construction materials plants are to be built in Moskovskaya Oblast. The capacity of plants being built and undergoing reconstruction will make it possible to build annually multistoried prefabricated homes in Moscow with an over-all living area of one million square meters. (8)

Tadzhik SSR

In 1952, the Tadzhik SSR construction materials industry operated rather poorly and construction projects were not well supplied with brick, lime, alabaster, and other building materials.

Enterprises subordinate to the Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry, Council of Ministers Tadzhik SSR, fulfilled their 1952 quotas for building materials only 87.3 percent and, as a result, the government failed to receive a large amount of brick, lime, tile, and ceramic pipe. Enterprises which operated inefficiently during 1952 were the Proletarsk and Stalinabad brick plants, Stalinabad Tile Plant, Stalinabad Construction Materials Plant, and the brick plant of the Wakhsh Construction Materials Combine. The latter plant has been producing a very poor grade of brick. Equipment utilization norms were not being fulfilled by either the Stalinabad or the Proletarsk brick plants as of January 1953.

The Isfara Construction Materials Plant and the Stalinabad Quarry Administration fulfilled their 1952 quotas for gross output, but failed to fulfill their quotas for the principal types of products.

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The Main Administration of Construction Materials Industry has not been accomplishing the organization and technical direction of its enterprises. As a result, the plan for capital investments in enterprises has not been fulfilled for several years. During 11 months of 1952, the plan for capital investments was fulfilled only 67 percent. The Wakhsl. Construction Materials Combine has been under construction for the past 6 years, while the Stalinabad Brick Plant is being reconstructed very slowly.

The main administration's construction organization, Uprstroyontazh (Administration for Construction and Building), has lacked both construction mechanisms and equipment, but has not been making use of the funds apportioned to acquire these items. The same situation applies to funds apportioned for the construction of dwellings. In 1952, Uprstroyontazh fulfilled its 11-month plan for capital investments only 15 percent, mainly because of the shortage of skilled construction personnel.

At the beginning of 1953, there was still no mass production in the republic of such items as profile brick, gypsum building products, artistic terra cotta slabs, sectional ceramic ovens, Roman (Portland) cement, perforated lightweight brick, horn brick, window sills, and other items. (41)

Ukrainian SSR

Although many enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Ukrainian SSR achieved significant successes during the first half of 1952 and either fulfilled or exceeded their quotas, the enterprises as a whole did not fulfill their quotas. In 1951, they failed to supply sufficient quantities of brick, tile, shell rock, and gypsum, while during the first 6 months of 1952 they failed to supply building projects with tens of millions of bricks, more than 5 million tiles, several thousand cubic meters of shell rock blocks, and many other products.

The work of enterprises subordinate to "Glavkirpich" (Main Administration of Brick Industry), especially the Pigorovskiy Brick Plant and the Petrovsk Plant Administration, was particularly poor. "Glavkirpich" organized its work poorly. Brick production was carried on very poorly during the summer months. In the winter and spring months incomplete shipments were sent out; in fact, generally the enterprises stopped kilning brick altogether.

Another reason for the failure of the enterprises was the fact that they introduced new technology in their operations very slowly. Then, once introduced, the technology was poorly applied. (42) The experiments of innovators were put into effect haphazardly. Equipment was not utilized satisfactorily. (43)

The volume of brick per cubic meter of furnace in enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Ukrainian SSR, as of July 1952, was only 854 bricks, which was considerably below norm. (42) As of 24 December 1952, brick volume per cubic meter of furnace was about 900 bricks. Many plants in L'vovskaya, Khar'kovskaya, Sumskaya, and Vinnitskaya oblasts were producing even less, and the brick was often of inferior quality. (43)

Uzbek SSR

The construction materials industry of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Uzbek SSR has been manufacturing new types of products.

The manufacture of lightweight perforated brick has been started in Tashkent and Andizhan. The new brick contains some coal and has a number of advantages. Although its production is cheaper, it excels ordinary brick in quality. The new process is also to be introduced in other plants. One third

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of the bricks produced by Uzbek brick plants in 1953 are to be made according to the new process.

As of April 1953, the Tashkent Experimental Plant of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Uzbek SSR had started mass production of facing plate, and the Tashkent New-Building Materials Plant was preparing to produce gypsum partitioning board and gypsum wallboard. (44)

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